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# Newsletter

RURAL DEVELOPMENT



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EARLY 1970 CENSUS RETURNS SHOW  
CONTINUED GROWTH OF METROPOLITAN AREAS

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

The metropolitan areas of the first 36 States tabulated in the 1970 Census grew by 19.3 percent in the Sixties, while nonmetropolitan areas grew by 3.1 percent, according to preliminary calculations.

In general, these States did not include the largest ones, except for Texas and Florida.

Of the 36 States tabulated, 14 experienced a decline in their nonmetropolitan areas between 1960 and 1970, whereas only one State (West Virginia) experienced a decline in its metropolitan areas.

The State experiencing the largest percentage increase in its nonmetropolitan areas was Florida, with an increase of 33-1/3 percent.

Among some of the better known or more significant sections of the country, the early results indicate that:

The Southern Missouri Ozarks grew by 3.7 percent, compared with a loss of 9.7 percent in the Fifties.

The flue-cured tobacco areas of the Atlantic Coastal Plains, the most densely settled agricultural area in the United States, declined by 2.7 percent in the Sixties after a gain of 4.2 percent in the 1950's.

The Arkansas Ozarks increased by 8.3 percent in the Sixties, after declining by 20.3 percent the previous decade.

In the Highland Rim of Tennessee, population grew by 4.7 percent in the last decade, compared with a loss of 4.0 percent in the 1950's.

The Mississippi Delta (here defined as the Missouri Bootheel, the Mississippi -Yazoo Delta, Northeastern Louisiana, and the Arkansas part of the Delta exclusive of the rice counties) declined 12.8 percent in the 1960's compared with a loss of 9.7 percent in the 1950's.

PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL GOALS RESEARCH STAFF  
DISCUSSES POPULATION GROWTH AND DISTRIBUTION

In its report to the President in July, the National Goals Research Staff discussed several subjects of national interest, such as population growth and distribution, the environment, education, basic natural science, technology assessment and consumerism. Copies of the 228-page paperback report, "Toward Balanced Growth: Quantity with Quality," are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for \$1.50 each.

In summarizing its chapter "Population Growth and Distribution," the staff said in part:

"Students of the overall size of our population are in no agreement as to precisely what the size will be by the year 2000, nor on what an optimum population size for a nation such as ours would be. But, more recent projections suggest that the increase in our population over the next 30 years may be considerably less than the additional 100 million that had generally been forecasted. In fact, it may even be that the present rate of increase will slacken off so that we will reach the zero growth rate that some demographers have been advocating.

"However, the issue of population distribution is a different matter, and one to be taken seriously regardless of what may be the upper limit of the population size. Our population has been concentrating increasingly, not only in cities, but more and more proportionately into a few rather large urban masses. This has resulted in a lowering of the quality of life in both urban and rural areas. Projection of such a migration pattern is actually a de facto distribution policy since it will affect such decisions as industrial plant location and other types of investment which will make the prophecy of increasing concentration self-fulfilling.

"We have before us a set of decisions. One which appears not to be urgent is that of overall-size of the population--even after the effects of a considerable amount of immigration are taken into account. Apropos of population distribution, we need to decide on whether or not we will adopt a deliberate strategy to encourage internal migration to negate the forecasts of ever-growing urban congestion in a few megalopoli. A viable option for such an alternate strategy is a policy of encouraging growth in alternate growth centers away from the large urban masses, coupled with a complementary effort of the use of new towns."

ILLINOIS LAWS AIM AT SPEEDING JUNK CAR REMOVAL

Automobile owners who abandon their vehicles on Illinois highways now can be fined up to \$100 in addition to towing and storage charges, according to a State law taking effect July 1. Another law taking effect the same day provides that any abandoned autos over seven years of age, except those classified as antiques, can be declared "junk only" within 10 days after impoundment. Such vehicles disposed of according to law do not require the issuance of a junking certificate of title by the Secretary of State.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES RISING  
IN NONMETROPOLITAN COUNTIES

Nearly half of the new manufacturing jobs in 1960-70 were in nonmetropolitan areas.

This is reported by the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the August issue of the Farm Index.

Other employment statistics cited included:

Private nonfarm employment in counties outside metropolitan areas rose faster (5 percent annually) than in metropolitan areas (4 percent) between 1962 and 1967.

New plants or expansions of old ones in rural or partly rural communities accounted for a fifth of the national gain in manufacturing employment during the same period.

The figures were cited in the first in a series of four articles about Rural America to be published in the Farm Index. Succeeding articles will deal with community services, cooperation among neighboring localities, and public and private programs available to help in development.

A limited number of single copies of the Farm Index are available by writing the editor, the Farm Index, Office of Management Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250.

FEDERAL AID CATALOG  
BEING MAILED OFFICIALS

The 1,086 page looseleaf Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance compiled by the Office of Economic Opportunity is being mailed to several public officials throughout the United States, including county agents of the Cooperative Extension Service, State representatives of the Extension Service, the Farmers Home Administration and the Soil Conservation Service as well as the regional offices of the Forest Service.

Mayors of places with population above 1,000 are expected to receive them, as well as county officials across the Nation.

Subscriptions for the 1970 Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance are available at \$6.75 per subscription from the:

Superintendent of Documents  
Government Printing Office  
Washington, D. C. 20402

Recipients of the catalog will automatically receive updated changes and additions each quarter.





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PRESIDENTIAL AIDE EHRLICHMAN EXPLAINS  
HOW DOMESTIC COUNCIL WILL WORK

At a July press conference, John D. Ehrlichman, counsellor to the President and executive secretary of the newly - created Domestic Council, explained the objectives and organization of the Council. In part, he said:

"I think that everyone pretty well agrees that while you could say the Domestic Council is a group of people, as it has been recommended, as the President has adopted it, the Domestic Council is a process for the development of and presentation of policy issues to the President, in the first instance.

"Second, it is a process for devising programs to carry out that domestic policy which the President has adopted. I say it is a process rather than a group of people, because at any given time the people who are working on a Domestic Council project may include the stated members of the Council, that is the Members of the Cabinet and the Counsellors to the President, but it also may include people from various levels in the departments, both in Washington and out in the field.

"It may include people from the private sector. It may include people in independent agencies. And these people will be joined together in a group whose specific charge is to develop a particular piece of business, a particular policy proposal or a particular program.

"They will be sparked by a member of the Domestic Council staff and in a sense, they will become Domestic Council staff for the duration of their project. But at the end of the project, when the paper goes forward to the President, this group will disassemble and the Domestic Council staff member will be available for a new assignment."